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ALBERTA ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANNUAL REPORT 1987-88

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Alberta
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

9833 - 109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2E8 403/427-5032

The Honourable James D. Horsman, Q.C.,
Attorney General of Alberta,
320 Legislature Building,
Edmonton, Alberta,
T5K 2B6

Dear Sir:

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Department of the Attorney General for the fiscal year April 1, 1987 to March 31, 1988.

Respectfully submitted,

D.W. Perras,
Deputy Attorney General

Alberta

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FEDERAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister

403/427-2339 - 427-2585
Room 320 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6

The Honourable Dr. D. Carter,
Speaker,
Legislative Assembly of Alberta,
325 Legislature Building,
Edmonton, Alberta,
T5K 2B6

Dear Dr. Carter:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Department of the Attorney General for the year-end March 31, 1988.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Horsman, Q.C.
Attorney General

Duties and Responsibilities of the Attorney General of Alberta

Alberta's system of administering justice has its roots in the British North America Act of 1867. The Act gave exclusive powers to Canadian provinces for administering justice in the broadest sense – whether the laws being administered are federal or provincial.

In 1906, therefore, the newly created province of Alberta passed the first Attorney General's Act. Today its equivalent is found in the Alberta statutes in a form little different from the original.

The Act details wide-ranging duties and responsibilities for the Attorney General which are addressed by the department. These include: Civil Law Division, Court and Property Services, Criminal Justice Division, Public Trustee, Inspector of Land Titles, Chief Medical Examiner, Legislative Counsel Office, Legal Research and Analysis, and the Constitutional Law Branch.

Section 2 of the Act defines in detail the responsibilities of the office. The Attorney General:

(a) is the official legal advisor of the Lieutenant Governor;

(b) shall ensure that public affairs are administered according to law;

(c) shall superintend all matters relating to the administration of justice in Alberta that are within the powers or jurisdiction of the Legislature or the Government;

(d) shall advise on legislative acts and proceedings of the Legislature and generally advise the Crown on matters of law referred to him by the Crown;

(e) shall exercise the powers and is charged with the duties attached to the office of the Attorney General of England by law or usage in so far as those powers and duties are applicable to Alberta;

(f) shall advise the heads of the several departments of the Government on matters of law connected with them respectively;

(g) shall settle instruments issued under the Great Seal of the Province;

(h) shall regulate and conduct litigation for or against the Crown or a public department in respect of subjects within the authority or jurisdiction of the Legislature;

(i) is charged generally with any duties that may be at any time assigned to the Attorney General of Alberta by law or by the Lieutenant Governor in Council;

(j) is responsible for the conduct of the matters hereinafter set out, the enumeration of which shall not be taken to restrict the general nature of any provision of this Act:

(i) the supervision of the administration of the law governing titles to real property in Alberta;

(ii) the recommendation of the appointment of and the giving of advice to sheriffs, registrars, judicial officers, justices of the peace, medical examiners, notaries public and commissioners for oaths;

(iii) the consideration of applications for bail and attendance thereon;

(iv) the consideration and argument of appeals from convictions and acquittals of persons charged with indictable offences;

(v) the hearing of applications for the granting of fiats regarding petitions of right, criminal informations, indictments, actions to set aside Crown patents, actions to recover fines and penalties, and other actions of a similar nature;

(vi) the consideration of applications for the remission of fines and penalties;

(vii) the appointment of counsel for the conduct of criminal business;

(viii) the arrangement of the sittings of the courts of justice in Alberta and the regulation of the work of official court reporters;

(ix) the supervision of the offices of the courts of law in Alberta;

(x) the examination of papers in connection with the admission and discharge of persons to and from mental health facilities;

(xi) the consideration of proposed legislation and other matters of a public nature;

(xii) the drawing of special conveyances and instruments of a similar nature relating to the sale or purchase of property under any Act relating to public works or otherwise.

Acts Administered by the Attorney General

Administration of Estates Act
Administrative Procedures Act
Age of Majority Act
Alberta Evidence Act
Alberta General Insurance Company Act
Arbitration Act
Assignment of Book Debts Act
Bills of Sale Act
Builders' Lien Act
Bulk Sales Act
Chattel Security Registries Act
Commissioners for Oaths Act
Conditional Sales Act
Contributory Negligence Act
Court of Appeal Act
Court of Queen's Bench Act
Criminal Injuries Compensation Act
Dangerous Dogs Act
Daylight Saving Time Act
Defamation Act
Department of the Attorney General Act
Devolution of Real Property Act
Domestic Relations Act
Dower Act
Execution Creditors Act
Exemptions Act
Expropriation Act
Extra-provincial Enforcement of Custody Orders Act
Factors Act
Family Relief Act
Fatal Accidents Act
Fatality Inquiries Act
Fraudulent Preferences Act
Frustrated Contracts Act
Garagemen's Lien Act
Gas Utilities Act
Guarantees Acknowledgment Act
Innkeepers Act
International Child Abduction Act
International Commercial Arbitration Act
Interpretation Act
Interprovincial Subpoena Act
Intestate Succession Act
Judgment Interest Act
Judicature Act
Jury Act
Justices of the Peace Act
Land Titles Act
Landlord's Rights on Bankruptcy Act
Languages Act/Loi linguistique
Law of Property Act[1]
Legal Profession Act
Legitimacy Act
Limitation of Actions Act
Maintenance Enforcement Act
Maintenance Order Act
Married Women's Act
Masters and Servants Act
Matrimonial Property Act
Mechanical Recording of Evidence Act
Minors' Property Act
Notaries Public Act
Oaths of Office Act
Occupiers' Liability Act
Partnership Act
Perpetuities Act
Personal Property Security Act
Petty Trespass Act
Possessory Liens Act
Proceedings Against the Crown Act
Provincial Court Act
Provincial Court Judges Act
Provincial Offences Procedure Act
Public Inquiries Act
Public Trustee Act
Public Utilities Board Act
Queen's Counsel Act
Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act
Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act
Regulations Act
Revised Statutes 1980 Act
Road Building Machinery Equipment Act
Sale of Goods Act
Seizures Act
Summary Convictions Act
Surrogate Court Act
Survival of Actions Act
Survivorship Act
Tort-Feasors Act
Trustee Act
Ultimate Heir Act
Unconscionable Transactions Act
Warehouse Receipts Act
Warehousemen's Lien Act
Wills Act
Women's Institute Act
Woodmen's Lien Act
Young Offenders Act

[1] Jointly administered with the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife

Judicial Districts Province of Alberta

Fort McMurray District

Peace River District

Grande Prairie District

Vegreville District

Edmonton District

Wetaskiwin District

Red Deer District

Calgary District

Drumheller - Hanna District

Medicine Hat District

Macleod District

Lethbridge District

Courts in Alberta

There are four courts in Alberta, all constituted by provincial statute and administered by the Attorney General of Alberta:

The Court of Appeal of Alberta
The Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta
The Surrogate Court of Alberta
The Provincial Court of Alberta

A registry is also maintained for the Court of Appeal of the Northwest Territories.

The Supreme Court of Canada, although not constituted or administered provincially, is the final court of appeal from courts of provincial jurisdiction.

Court of Appeal of Alberta

Chief Justice of Alberta: J.H. Laycraft

The Chief Justice presides over the Court of Appeal of Alberta. In addition to the Chief Justice, there are 14 Justices of Appeal appointed by the Governor General in Council.

During this fiscal period, three justices were appointed.

The number of civil appeals filed during the year increased to 852 from 824 in 1986-87, while the number of civil appeals heard increased to 394 from 377.

The volume of criminal appeals filed decreased to 1,145 from 1,268 in 1986-87. The number of criminal appeals heard decreased by three per cent to 877 from 910.

See page 13.

Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta

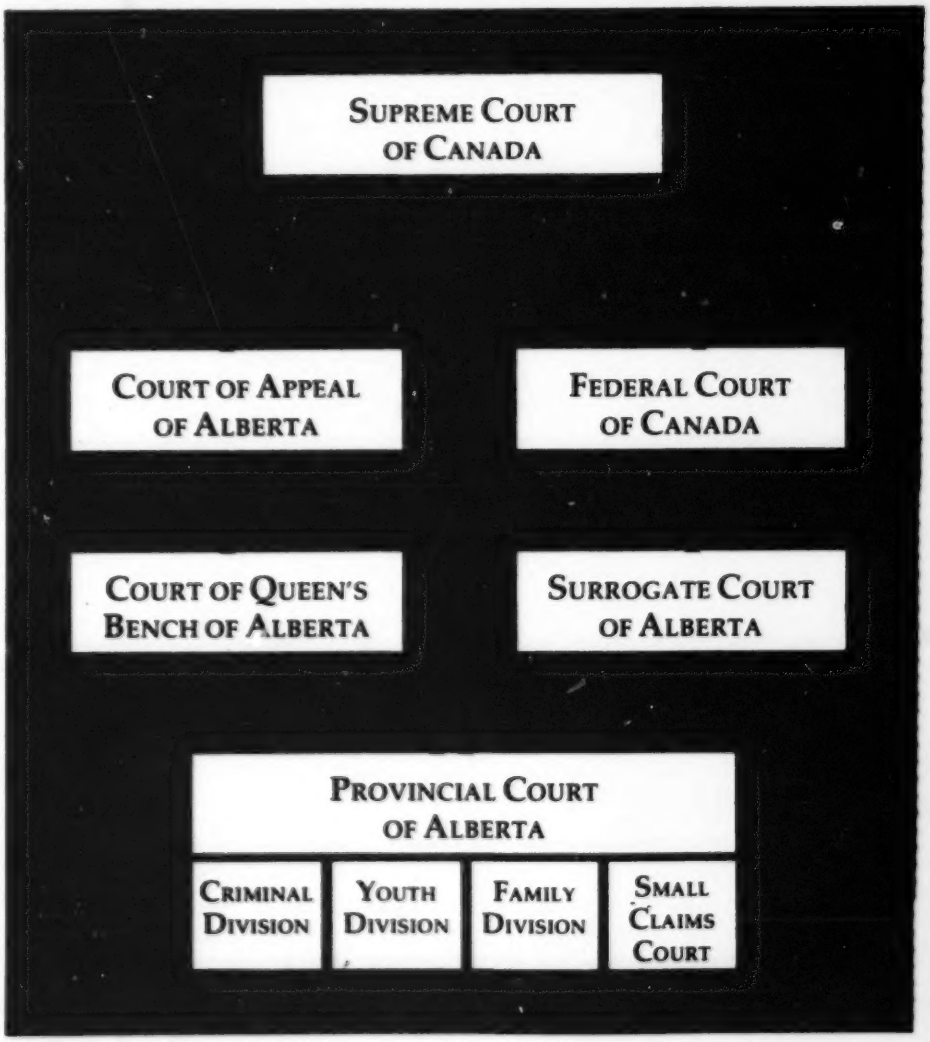
Chief Justice: W.K. Moore

The Chief Justice presides over the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta. In addition to the Chief Justice, there is an Associate Chief Justice and 59 justices.

During this fiscal period, three justices were appointed.

The number of civil and criminal trials heard in Court of Queen's Bench decreased marginally during the year, and the number of civil actions heard also decreased from the previous year.

See page 13.



Surrogate Court of Alberta

Chief Justice: W.K. Moore

The Surrogate Court has jurisdiction over testamentary matters. Also, it issues grants of probate and administration and appoints guardians.

The Chief Justice and the other justices of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta are the judges of Surrogate Court.

(See page 13.)

Provincial Court of Alberta

Chief Judge: C.A. Kosowan

The Chief Judge presides over the Provincial Court of Alberta. The Provincial Court exercises both civil and criminal jurisdiction: civil by virtue of the Provincial Court Act and The Landlord and Tenant Act; criminal by virtue of the Criminal Code and a variety of provincial statutes.

In addition to the Chief Provincial Judge and eight Assistant Chief Judges, there are 102 other judges. Three new judges were appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, one each in Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer.

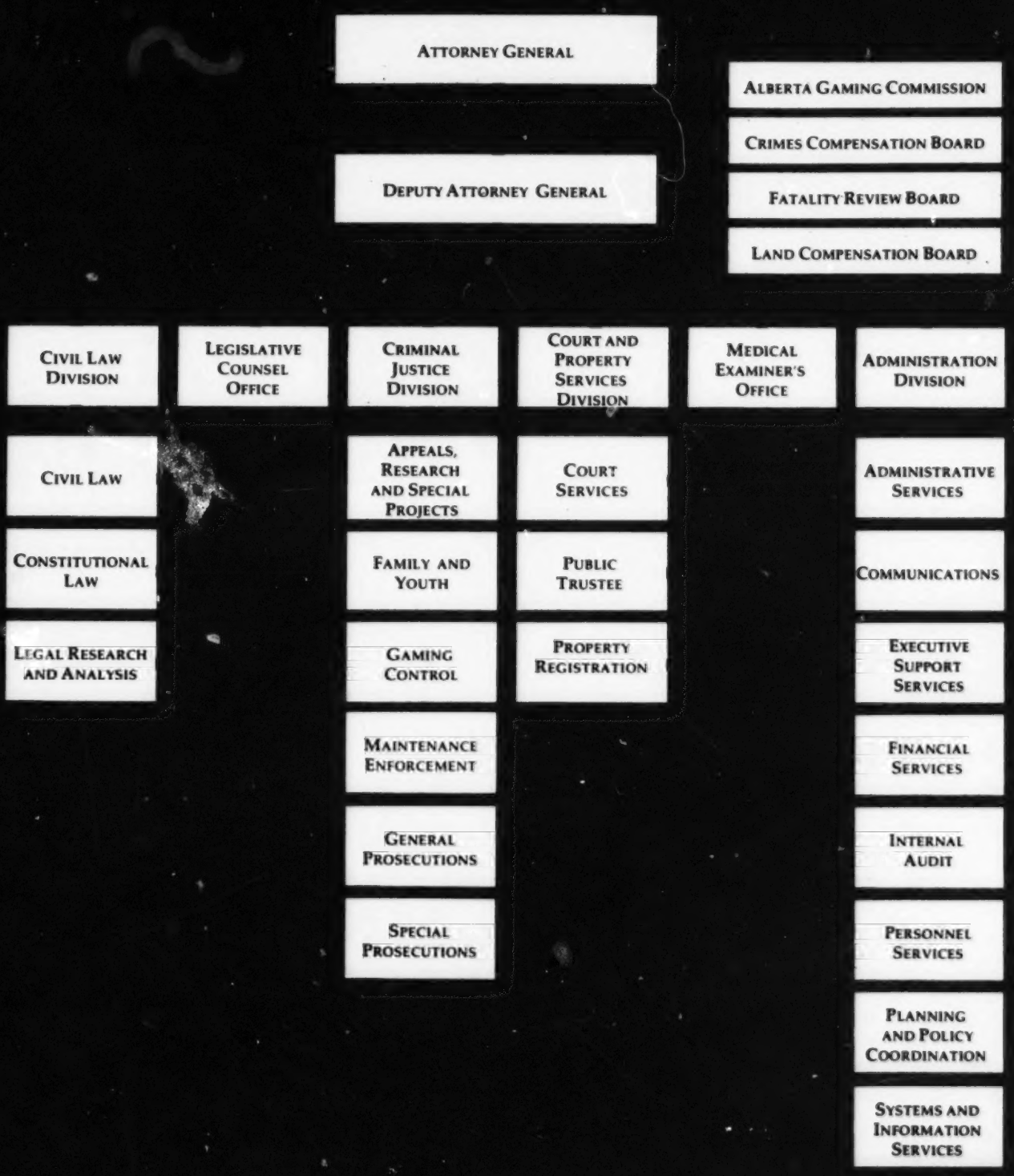
(See page 13.)

New Court Facilities Opened

Court facilities were opened in new provincial buildings in Edson and Provost. Provincial Circuit Court facilities were established in Assumption, Fort Vermilion and Red Earth.

Renovations to the old Courthouse in Calgary were completed for use by the Court of Appeal. Renovations to the Calgary Queen's Bench Courthouse neared completion with a total of 24 courtrooms in use.

The Department of the Attorney General Organization Chart



Civil Law Division

Assistant Deputy Minister: D. Rae, Q.C.

The Civil Law Division is responsible for the administration of civil legal services provided by the department, including the provision of legal advice to the Crown.

Civil Law Branch

Executive Director: R. N. Dunne

The branch provides legal advice and assistance in civil matters to the provincial government. Branch lawyers provide legal advice to all government departments and to many government boards and agencies. They prepare legal opinions, draft agreements, and serve on interdepartmental committees. In addition, branch lawyers appear as counsel for the Crown in all courts of civil jurisdiction, including the Supreme Court of Canada; represent the Crown in proceedings before various administrative commissions and tribunals; and appear on behalf of the Attorney General at public inquiries under the Fatality Inquiries Act.

Constitutional Law Branch

Director: N. D. Steed

The branch acts as a source of constitutional law expertise to the Alberta government, providing legal advice and representing the government before courts and tribunals.

On request, the branch reviews government policies and practices or existing legislation with a view to avoiding potential constitutional problems. It also is involved in identifying potential challenges to proposed legislation and suggesting changes to avoid violating the constitution.

Branch lawyers represent the province on constitutional issues in all courts and tribunals in Alberta and also before the Supreme Court of Canada. In cases where the constitutional validity of legislation is challenged, the branch is most often present to represent the province on the constitutional issue.

Legal Research and Analysis Branch

Director: C.W. Dalton

The branch researches and analyzes statute law, judicial decisions and legal periodicals, and provides the Attorney General with legal advice on law reform and policy planning. Staff serve on interdepartmental committees studying law reform, professions and occupations, the joint Alberta Government/Law Society Committee for Law Libraries in Alberta, the Institute of Law Research and Reform and the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. The branch maintains liaison with other law reform bodies.

The branch was involved in continuing research projects in personal property security, the Builders' Lien Act and the Provincial Offenses Procedure Act.

Criminal Justice Division

Assistant Deputy Minister: M. N. McCrank

The Criminal Justice Division provides legal services to criminal justice administration at all levels of court throughout the province.

Appeals, Research and Special Projects Branch

Director: P. C. Bourque

This branch is responsible for all appeals in the Court of Appeal of Alberta and the Supreme Court of Canada, as well as research for special projects of the department or in general areas affecting department policies and procedures.

The branch staff includes five lawyers in Edmonton and one in Calgary.

Family and Youth Branch

Acting Director: B. Bauer

This branch operates from both a criminal law and civil law perspective. It co-ordinates diverse civil (family) and criminal (youth) legal services.

The civil mandate of the Family and Youth Branch is to provide legal representation and advice for government departments in family law. This service is provided by both crown counsel of the Family and Youth Branch and private lawyers. The branch is also responsible for the Maintenance Enforcement Program.

The criminal mandate is to prosecute persons between 12 and 18 years in accordance with the Young Offenders Act (Canada). The branch develops and implements policies and procedures for the prosecution of young offenders throughout Alberta.

Family and Youth Branch staff includes nine lawyers in Edmonton and eight in Calgary.

Gaming Control Branch

Director: W.W. McCall

Since 1981, the division of responsibilities between the Gaming Control Branch and the Alberta Gaming Commission has remained unchanged.

The commission is the licence-issuing authority and is responsible for approved policy. The Gaming Control Branch processes all applications for licensing. Also, it enforces policy and performs all audits, field inspections and investigations. The branch has a staff of 33.

General Prosecutions Branch

Director: R.H. Davie, Q.C.

The General Prosecutions Branch, with a legal staff of 117, provides prosecution services through offices in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Drumheller, Medicine Hat, Peace River, Vegreville, Wetaskiwin, Fort McMurray, St. Paul, and Hinton.

The head office in Edmonton provides direction and guidelines on legal procedures. It also addresses broader criminal law issues and provides a variety of administrative services to the field offices.

Maintenance Enforcement Branch

Director: G. Leibel

This branch is responsible for the enforcement of maintenance orders and the collection and disbursement of monies owed as a result of the maintenance orders.

Beginning January 1, 1987, all maintenance orders issued by Alberta courts were registered with the Maintenance Enforcement Program for enforcement. The branch staff includes 25 permanent and 21 project positions. Its director reports through the Family and Youth Branch.

Special Prosecutions Branch

Director: B.R. Fraser, Q.C.

The Special Prosecutions Branch gives advice during police investigations and prosecutes particular cases including:

- significant criminal cases involving complex commercial or corporate criminal conduct;
- cases concerning organized criminal activity involving a number of jurisdictions;
- cases with major involvement of a government agency and provincial government employees charged as a result of conduct in the course of government duties.

Handling such cases in this way ensures the best possible legal decisions during investigations and at the charging stage. It also ensures the most effective prosecution preparation and the highest degree of excellence throughout the court process.

In the Special Prosecutions Branch there are four Edmonton lawyers and three Calgary lawyers.

Court and Property Services Division

Assistant Deputy Minister: J.E. Klinck

This division is responsible for the Court Services Branch; the Property Registration Branch which includes the Land Titles Offices and Personal Property Registries; and the Public Trustee's Offices.

CASES Implemented in Calgary

A major achievement in the division during this fiscal year was the full implementation of the computerized Civil and Sheriff Entry System (CASES) at Calgary. CASES is a civil case tracking and inquiry system for the Clerk of the Court of Queen's Bench and Sheriff's Offices.

ALTA Project Continued

Development of the Alberta Land Titles Automation (ALTA) computer system continued throughout the year. This included a significant amount of programming and acceptance testing to ensure that the data base software met the requirements for a computerized title system. A gradual implementation of the system is planned for the next fiscal year as well as the commencement of a project to convert the current paper certificates of title to computer records.

Personal Property Registry Opportunity Assessment Study

A study was conducted for the Personal Property Registry to identify opportunities to improve customer service and operational efficiency. A number of initiatives were implemented which resulted in substantial savings and improvements to customer service.

Court Services Branch

Executive Director: R.B. Dunster

The Executive Director, with three Regional Directors and a Central Services Director, provides administrative support to all levels of court in Alberta. There are 992 permanent administrative support positions.

Court Support Services

This section is responsible for:

- court automated systems,
- court reporting and recording systems,
- departmental and court library services,
- preparation of policies and procedures, and
- budget and expenditure support to court operations.

Automated Systems

The computer system which supports the Provincial Courts, Court of Queen's Bench and Court of Appeal in tracking criminal cases and processing traffic tickets, continued to perform satisfactorily.

Court Reporting/Recording Systems

Court proceedings are reported or recorded by this section in order to produce verbatim transcripts. Transcript orders in 1987-88 totalled approximately 860,000 pages, a decrease from the previous year.

Libraries

During 1987-88 the legal information services provided to judges and lawyers through the libraries' computer-assisted research increased by 65 per cent; manual reference services decreased by eight per cent. The library collection is comprised of 379,780 volumes. In 1987-88 circulation of library material increased five per cent.

Court operations

This section is divided into three regions: Calgary, Edmonton and Rural. Administrative support is provided to the various courts and their divisions in each region, broadly labelled as court office administration, court clerks, and Sheriff's Office.

Court Office Administration

This section accepts documents from the public, enforcement and other agencies. It files and maintains court documents and records; controls exhibits; and receives and accounts for all fine monies and fees for service. Resident staff are located in 24 Alberta locations. Caseload statistics are on page 13.

Court clerks

All court proceedings are provided with a court clerk from this section. Court clerks call court to order, swear in witnesses, make and maintain records of the proceedings and accept exhibits that are being entered.

The Sheriff's Office

This section is responsible for the service and enforcement of court orders and documents including jury summonses and writs effecting seizures and evictions. Refer to page 13 for Sheriff's Office statistics.

COURT STATISTICS

Caseload Statistics for Year-End
March 31, 1988

COURT OF APPEAL OF ALBERTA	1987-88	1986-87
Civil appeals filed	852	824
Civil appeals heard	394	377
Criminal appeals filed	1,145	1,268
Criminal appeals heard	877	910
COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBERTA		
Civil and Criminal Cases		
Civil Actions commenced (excluding divorce)	61,745	69,739
Civil trials heard (excluding divorce)	1,694	1,777
Petitions for divorce commenced	11,005	11,875
Decree nisi granted	8,432	8,224
Criminal trials heard	2,589	2,632
Summary conviction appeals filed	1,152	1,191
Summary conviction appeals heard	988	1,033
Sheriff's Office		
Writs of execution filed	25,308	29,853
Distress warrants filed	16,682	17,920
Seizure activities	19,353	21,145
Process served	23,173	25,514
Jury summonses served	18,207	19,771
SURROGATE COURT OF ALBERTA		
Applications for Probate Administration filed	6,385	6,445
Grants of Probate issued	6,007	6,011
PROVINCIAL COURT OF ALBERTA		
Criminal Division		
Provincial Statute Offences received on Form A Tickets*	659,254	629,797
Charges received on Criminal Code Informations	166,708	168,925
Family and Youth Divisions		
Docketed Youth charges**	44,125	41,570
Child Welfare cases	6,023	5,616
Family Court cases	4,077	5,083
Small Claims Division		
Small claims filed	30,900	40,392
Landlord and Tenant Act applications filed	2,440	2,787

* The number of Form A Tickets received includes tickets issued to Young Offenders.
** Also includes Reviews of Dispositions of Young Offenders.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE BRANCH

Public Trustee: W.A. deNance

The Public Trustee:

- protects the assets and financial interests of children under 18 years of age and of missing persons, by acting as guardian of their estates;
- acts as trustee for those who are legally unable to handle their own financial affairs by reason of mental disability; and
- administers deceased persons' estates when they die intestate and there are no adult relatives in the province.

Official Guardian

During 1987-88 the Public Trustee was appointed official guardian for the administration of 1,789 new estates for missing persons and children. This represents a decrease of 1.1 per cent from the 1,810 files opened in 1986-87.

Dependent Adults

In dependent adult administration, the Public Trustee opened 293 files, a decline of 1.3 per cent from the previous year. Increased activity in special services provided by Alberta Social Services increased the volume of work on the majority of files.

In addition, new estates brought under the jurisdiction of the Public Trustee have increased in size over past years necessitating greater administrative attention to assets and financial matters.

The continuing efforts to integrate dependent adults into society involves increased administration in attending to their financial affairs as they are moved from institutions and provided with private accommodation.

Deceased Estates

In deceased estate administration, 508 files were opened during 1987-88, a decrease of 1.4 per cent from the previous year.

The affluence of society has increased the size of the estates being administered, resulting in a greater number of assets to be administered and more diverse matters to be resolved.

The total number of files administered by the Office of the Public Trustee was 19,755, an increase of 95 over the previous year. The increase in total cases under administration is attributed to a decline in the number of cases concluded during the year, attesting to the general increase in administrative activity referred to above.

The length of time that it takes to administer an estate depends upon the type of estate. The official guardian section administers minors' estates until the minor

TRUST BALANCE SHEET

(Unaudited) as at March 31, 1988

		1987-88	1986-87
ASSETS	Estates' and Beneficiaries' assets		
	Consolidated investment fund		
	Cash in trust bank accounts	$ 5,880,570	$ 368,453
	Fund investments, at amortized cost	182,261,844	176,330,435
		188,142,414	176,698,888
	Other estate assets		
	Direct investments	15,710,951	15,893,329
	Other assets (Note 1)	1	1
		15,710,952	15,893,330
	Special Reserve		
	Cash	241,511	188,018
	Receivables	344,411	—
	Fund investments, at amortized cost	16,706,198	14,963,885
		17,292,120	15,151,903
	TOTAL	**$ 221,145,486**	**$ 207,744,121**
LIABILITIES	Estates' and Beneficiaries' liabilities		
	Advances due to Provincial Treasurer	$ 24,462	$ 14,607
	Payables	346,972	—
	Other liabilities (Note 1)	1	1
		371,435	14,608
	Estates' and Beneficiaries' capital	203,481,931	192,577,610
	Special Reserve		
	Retained earnings	17,292,120	15,151,903
		220,774,051	207,729,513
	TOTAL	**$ 221,145,486**	**$ 207,744,121**

NOTE 1: Other assets, which include bank accounts and accounts receivable, mortgages, agreements, notes receivable and real estate are reported at a nominal value of $1 as valuation of these assets is not readily determinable.

Other liabilities including accounts, mortgages, agreements and notes payable are reported at a nominal value of $1 as a valuation of these liabilities is not readily determinable.

achieves the age of majority. The average period for administration of deceased estates is 18 months to two years. Special trust estates are the exception, often continuing for indefinite periods. The administration of dependent adult estates is usually of considerable duration and could continue for the lifetime of an individual.

The trust balance sheet (page 14) reveals assets under administration to be $220 million as of March 31, 1988, an increase of 6.2 per cent over the previous year. Other estate assets and liabilities have been reported at a nominal value of one dollar as valuations of these assets and liabilities are not readily available. The recorded value of assets under administration as of March 31, 1988 was $235 million.

Property Registration Branch

Director: K.B. Payne

Personal Property Registry

The Personal Property Registry includes both the Central Registry and the Vehicle Registry. It is responsible for registering documents and providing searches regarding interests in personal property.

Registrations relating to vehicle, railway rolling stock and oil well drilling equipment are conducted in the Vehicle Registry, while all others are conducted in the Central Registry. In addition, the Central Registry registers and provides searches of trade names and partnerships.

In 1987-88 the number of registrations decreased by 11.1 per cent from 1986-87, and the number of searches decreased by 5.9 per cent. In addition, the number of registrations and searches conducted under the Partnership Act increased by 5.9 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively.

See chart below.

Land Titles Offices

The land registration system administered by the Land Titles Offices in Calgary and Edmonton is based upon a government guarantee of land ownership information. This information is recorded through the issuance and updating of certificates of title that document the ownership of various interests in land parcels. Documents that effect ownership changes and plans that create parcel boundaries are examined for compliance with legal requirements before they are accepted for registration. Searches of the title and document records maintained by the offices are provided to the public.

The volume of documents registered increased by 10.6 per cent over 1986-87, while plan registrations decreased by 6.1 per cent. The number of certificates of title issued increased by 3.2 per cent and search activity decreased by 2.2 per cent. Detailed statistics are provided on page 16.

Personal Property Registry

Activities for the Year-End March 31, 1988

		1987-88	1986-87	% Increase Decrease
Documents Registered		567,064	637,656	(11.07)
Encumbrance Searches		609,196	666,634	(8.61)
Partnership Act	Registrations	18,932	17,878	5.89
	Searches	23,185	22,852	1.45

LAND TITLES OFFICES

Activities for the Year-End March 31, 1988

	Type of Activity	1987-88	1986-87	% Increase (Decrease)
Document Registrations	Transfers	119,245	110,653	7.8
	Mortgages	67,561	67,407	0.2
	Caveats	82,186	68,872	19.3
	Liens	6,222	10,848	(42.6)
	Discharges	165,075	154,364	7.0
	Easements and Utility Right of Ways	8,374	8,659	(3.3)
	Miscellaneous	101,774	76,751	32.6
	TOTAL	**550,437**	**497,536**	**10.6**
Survey Plan Registrations	Subdivision Plans	1,121	1,008	11.2
	Condominium Plans	52	49	6.1
	Road Plans	779	850	(8.4)
	Right of Way Plans	2,106	2,493	(15.5)
	Others	391	340	15.0
	TOTAL	**4,449**	**4,740**	**(6.1)**
Tax Recovery	Titles Endorsed	8,042	8,215	(2.1)
	Tax Notices Issued	14,703	15,902	(7.5)
Certificates of Titles Issued	On Transfers	134,805	129,933	3.7
	On New Subdivision Plans	8,821	7,303	20.8
	On New Condominium Plans	2,812	4,625	(39.2)
	TOTAL	**146,438**	**141,861**	**3.2**
Searches	Plan Searches	166,178	165,031	0.7
	TWX Searches	42,218	84,363	(50.0)
	Telephone Searches	76,309	87,981	(13.3)
	FAX Searches	198,464	59,379	234.2
	Photocopies - Titles and Documents (Pages)	4,258,030	4,451,282	(4.3)
	Microfiche Documents (Pages)	1,394,397	1,420,823	(1.9)
	Microfiche Titles (Pages)	70,947	79,743	(11.0)
	TOTAL	**6,206,543**	**6,348,602**	**(2.2**

Legislative Counsel Office

Chief Legislative Counsel: P.J. Pagano

The Legislative Counsel Office drafts all government bills, orders-in-council and regulations. Fifty-four public acts were drafted that received Royal Assent and 871 orders-in-council were passed by cabinet during the year ending March 31, 1988. The office also drafted the majority of the 534 regulations filed under the Regulations Act during that period. Revision of Alberta Regulations continued throughout the year.

Administration Division

Executive Director: D. Medwid

Administrative Services Branch

Director: H.A. Brinton

Special Services is responsible for analysis and design of department forms and reports, maintenance of the forms management program, and operation of a reprographics unit.

Materials and Facilities provides a central purchasing and supply service, administers all facility and accommodation projects for the department, and coordinates department word processing systems.

Records and Micrographic Services provides advice and assistance in all areas of records management including the operation of the central records office serving head office, and the records disposition program serving the entire department. Microfilm labs in Calgary and Edmonton provide microfilming, processing, editing, and duplicating services to the department. In the course of creating micrographic records, a total of 7,229,892 camera exposures were made during this year.

Official Documents and Appointments processes appointments and maintains current files of the province's 28,095 commissioners for oaths and 469 notaries public, and administers the Provincial Secretary's office.

Communications Branch

Director: L. J. Gronow

The Communications Branch provides public relations counsel and complete communications services to the Department of the Attorney General.

The branch identifies issues, liaises with media, co-ordinates special events, develops and implements advertising, and coordinates production and distribution of publications, display and audio-visual materials in support of departmental programs and services.

The branch responded to over 2,060 inquiries from the media during the year. Fifty-four news releases were issued, with 43 pertaining to fatality inquiries.

The branch coordinated the publication of:

- the Annual Report of the Alberta Attorney General;
- the Alberta Gaming Commission Annual Review;
- the Crimes Compensation Board Annual Report;
- the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Annual Review;
- two issues of the semi-annual Alberta Court Calendar; and
- a wide range of pamphlets, brochures and other printed materials.

Executive Support Services

Manager: R. Petruk

This unit was established in 1987-88 to assist the department's executive managers by:

- providing support services in managing the administration of senior committees;
- providing policy analysis and support;
- representing the department in various federal/provincial forums; and
- undertaking special projects.

Financial Services Branch

Director: I. Hope

The branch provides a broad range of financial support and advisory services to the department.

The **Financial Planning Section** provides continuous financial analysis of operations and prepares and presents annual budgets.

The **Financial Operations Section** has three operating units linking the department to central processing of financial data:

- Pay and Benefits coordinates commencements, terminations and changes in pay status for all employees.
- Revenue and Expenditures reports all revenue collected by approximately 60 department operations throughout the province. Revenue details are provided in the table on page 23. The expenditure unit processes all non-payroll costs. Expenditures, including payroll costs, are shown in the table on page 24.
- Central Finance coordinates the collection of fines levied by the courts and their distribution to more than 350 municipalities and to the federal and provincial governments.

Financial Systems provides general financial advice to department managers and financial representation during the development of new or changing systems in the department.

Internal Audit Branch

Director: E.T.N. Berg

The branch provides management within an internal audit coverage of the department. Its emphasis is with management's control of the operational, financial and system development process. Management is advised as to the adequacy of financial and management procedures and controls, program effectiveness and efficiency through an independent, systematic appraisal of department activities.

Personnel Services Branch

Director: G.D. Dawson

This branch provides a full range of human resources services to the department in the areas of:

- recruitment and selection,
- position classification,
- staff development,
- organizational analysis,
- human resource planning,
- staff relations, and
- compensation and benefit administration.

Selection and Classification:

The recruitment volume increased from the previous fiscal year. In addition to the normal recruitment process this section also conducts a number of specialized recruitment programs involving legal articling students, summer temporary employment, and priority employment. Position classifications continue to increase as managers change organization structures in an effort to streamline operations and to increase productivity.

Employee Relations:

Contract interpretation, discliplinary action advice and grievance handling continued to be major functions in this section. The section also offered pension counselling for participants of the Early Retirement Incentive Program and administered the Long Term Disability Income Plan.

Staff Development:

The number of courses available increased significantly to 108 programs, with 1,036 participants. Programs included:

- employee orientation,
- communication and interpersonal skills,
- management development,
- supervision,
- career development,
- counter skills,
- electronic data processing,
- health and safety, and
- para-legal skills.

This section provided considerable assistance to the Court and Property Services Division in the area of human resource planning. It established internal managerial/employee development programs in

the Court Services and Personal Property Registry Branches.

The distribution of staff in the province is outlined in the Geographic Distribution Chart at right.

Planning and Policy Coordination Branch

Director: J. Wilson

This branch provides the department and its managers with support in the analysis and management of information. A department management information service coordinates the collection, analysis and dissemination of information in response to requests received by the department.

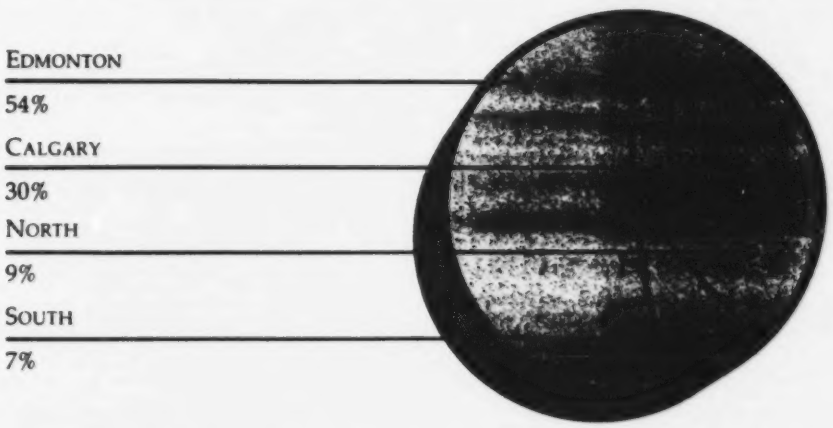
During the 1987-88 fiscal year, the branch assisted in the development of management information for the provincial criminal courts and for the Criminal Justice Division. Development of data on topical issues such as impaired driving and gaming was initiated.

As part of its responsibilities the branch produced a users' guide to departmental administration services and continues to maintain a register of all developmental committees and projects in the department.

Other services included preparation of discussion papers and briefing materials; coordination of departmental resources to address policy and information matters; and assessment of the impact of new legislation and programs.

Geographic Distribution of Alberta Attorney General Staff

Year-end March 31, 1988



Systems and Information Services Branch

Director: J. Sorensen

This branch provides services to the department related to electronic data processing and word processing.

The Systems and Information Services Branch is responsible for policies related to data and word processing, while responsibility for operation of individual projects resides with the user units. The branch assists the users by providing techincal and management assistance and direction to these projects. The majority of development and maintenance work is contracted to the private sector through Alberta Public Works, Supply and Services.

The branch also developed an electronic data processing plan to support the budget process and interface with central government agencies in the review and monitoring of plans.

Major projects in 1987-88 included Alberta Land Titles Automation (ALTA) Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), and Civil and Sheriff's Entry System (CASES).

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Chief Medical Examiner: J.C. Butt, M.D.
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner: G.P. Dowling, M.D.

Medical Examiner System

The Chief Medical Examiner investigates unexpected or unexplained deaths, including all unnatural deaths occurring in the province. These categories represent about 30 per cent of all Alberta deaths. The Fatality Inquires Act requires the Chief Medical Examiner issue certificates approving cremation, shipment out of province, or anatomical dissection under the Universities Act.

Approximately 150 medical examiners working on a fee-for-service basis conduct investigations. There are also full-time forensic pathologists in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Ultra-modern, well equipped medical examiner facilities, including toxicology laboratories, are located in Edmonton and Calgary.

The Chief Medical Examiner's successful program to solicit corneal tissue gifts in selected cases through consent of next-of-kin has been expanded to include post-mortem donations of skin for the treatment of burn victims.

Education

The office continued to provide an education program directed primarily at medical persons, police officers, and other personnel involved in the investigation of sudden death. As well, staff forensic pathologists were involved in the education program of medical, legal, dental, and forensic archeology programs at the Universities of Alberta and Calgary. The post-graduate program for pathology trainees continued in 1987/88.

Death Notification

In the 1987 fiscal year there were 3,519 deaths investigated, compared with 3,665 in the previous period. Details of case-load volumes for 1987 are available below.

Research Unit

This unit supplies statistics to government, university, and other agencies with an interest in social and medical matters. Emphasis is placed upon the preventable aspects of sudden, unnatural deaths. This unit is unique in Canada and the information is in great demand, especially by social scientists.

Deaths Reported

for year-end March 31, 1988

	Total Provincial	
	1987/88	1986/87
Natural	1,793	2,026
*Accidental	865	806
Suicidal	411	419
Homicidal	65	70
Unclassified	164	165
Undetermined	81	80
Pending	140	100
	3,519	**3,666**

*Traffic and non-traffic accidental deaths.

Corneal Donation Program

April 1, 1987 - March 31, 1988

	No. of Requests	No. of Donations	%
Calgary	25	15	
Edmonton	27	22	
Alberta	52	37	71
Total since start of program			
Calgary	158	103	
Edmonton	189	111	
Alberta	347	214	62

Boards and Associated Agencies

Crimes Compensation Board

Chairman: B.A. Nahornick, M.D.

Alberta's Crimes Compensation Board was established in 1969 to help victims of violent crimes who suffer financial loss as a direct result of injuries.

During 1987-88, 298 applications for compensation were filed. Of these, 250 were from individuals who had been injured and suffered loss, 43 were for loss resulting from death, including claims for support by dependants, and five were for property damages.

The Board made 466 decisions. Of these, 240 were final awards, 33 were refusals of claims and the remainder were interim or supplemental awards. The total compensation ordered by the Board to be paid in the year was $1,018,391.71 including $394,907.50 in monthly payments for continuing liability.

The most frequent crimes for which applications were received last year were assault causing bodily harm (159), murder (36), robbery with violence (34), and attempted murder (12).

Periodic Payments

The Board exercises authority to make awards involving periodic payments.

Annual reviews by the Board may adjust the amount of the payment to reflect changing circumstances. Over an extended period, the total of monthly payments may well equal the amount that the civil courts might have awarded by way of damages. Several applicants would have been entitled to social assistance but the payments by the Board correspond more closely to the earnings they have lost as a result of a violent crime. At present, 62 victims are receiving monthly payments ranging from $21 to $2,600.

Fatality Review Board

Chairman: K.E. Vik, M.D.

The Fatality Review Board decides whether to hold public inquiries into sudden deaths. Public inquiries are held before a judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta. There were 31 inquiries in 1987/88 compared to 43 in 1986/87.

The board is appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council and is composed of a lawyer, a physician and a lay person. The Chief Medical Examiner is an ex officio member of this board.

Land Compensation Board

Chairman: K.J. Boyd

The Land Compensation Board was established to deal with the expropriation of land and the determination of full compensation to owners for land losses and costs and expenses resulting from the expropriation. Property owners not satisfied with the payment proposed by expropriating authorities may apply to the Board to have compensation determined.

During 1987, the Board received 48 applications, of which 32 were to determine compensation and 14 were Notice of Motion asking the Board to decide issues arising from expropriation procedures. The Board was required to act as inquiry officer and approving authority for two expropriations.

The Board heard 19 cases during 1987 and issued six Orders determining final compensation for expropriated property and 13 Orders on expropriation procedures.

All decisions of the Board are given in writing, with complete explanation. Copies of each decision are filed with provincial courthouses and the law libraries at the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary. The Board provides free copies of specified decisions on request.

The Board consists of six members: a chairman, one full-time member and four part-time members. The Board has a support staff of five.

Alberta Gaming Commission

Chairman: K.C. Joshee

Established in January, 1981 as the provincial licensing authority for lottery schemes under the Criminal Code, the Alberta Gaming Commission licenses bingos, casinos, raffles and pull-ticket sales conducted by charitable or religious organizations for charitable or religious purposes.

In addition, the seven-member commission is responsible for reviewing gaming policy, providing information on licensed gaming to the public, and advising volunteer groups.

Where concerns or uncertainties are identified in the review of an application, the commission provides the opportunity for representatives of the applicant to appear at one of its regular public hearings. After considering all presentations and evidence appropriate to the application, the commission issues a licensing decision, with complete explanation.

The commission publishes and distributes an annual review summarizing each year's activities, including new developments and licensed gaming statistics for Alberta.

The Legal Aid Society of Alberta

Executive Director: N. Nichols

The Legal Aid Society provides legal services in criminal and civil matters to eligible applicants. Eligibility is determined by financial status. In criminal cases, aid is available for all indictable offences, and generally for summary conviction offences where imprisonment or loss of livelihood is a potential result. Civil cases are covered where it has been determined there is substantial merit in the action, except for divorce cases where there must be compelling need for the divorce. Where possible, clients contribute toward the cost of retaining legal services, and generally, efforts are made to recover expenditures.

The board of directors is responsible by the terms of agreement to the Law Society for the provision of legal aid. There are 15 members on the board, two named by the Law Society, two by the Attorney General, one by the Government of Canada and 10 selected jointly.

The overall demand for legal aid services continued at approximately the same rate as the previous year. There were 34,859 applications for coverage. Of the certificates issued 58 per cent were for criminal cases, 20.5 per cent for young offenders and 21.5 per cent for civil matters. The Duty Counsel Program was expanded to include 47 locations and assisted 29,870 persons.

All legal services to clients are provided by members of the Law Society in private practice. They are appointed by the Society to represent individual clients and are paid on the basis of a tariff of fees, one-third to one-half of normal private fees. Participation under this tariff represents the substantial contribution of the private bar to the provision of legal aid.

The Society received $15,337,164 from the Government of Alberta, a portion of which will be recovered from the Government of Canada according to a cost-sharing formula. Another $951,301 came from client and other recoveries, and $405,416 from interest and sundry sources.

Expenditures in the period totalled $16,296,561. Of that amount, $12,840,029 was paid to lawyers for legal fees and disbursements. Staff salary and fringe benefit costs were $2,434,987, capital expenditures were $107,798 and other administrative costs were $913,747.

ATTORNEY GENERAL - Statement of Revenue

For Year-End March 31, 1988 (Unaudited)

Payments from Government of Canada:	Legal Aid	$ 5,730,225
	Other	209,090
		5,939,315
Fees, Permits and Licences:	Land Titles	31,360,375
	Central Registry	6,220,857
	Clerks of the Court Act	4,332,754
	Public Trustee Act	2,450,209
	Sheriff's Act	2,067,867
	Lottery Licences	1,334,211
	Registrar's Assurance Fund	1,093,851
	Other	1,526,704
		50,386,828
Other Revenue:	Refunds of expenditure:	
	Previous years' refunds	70,133
		[illegible]
		[illegible]
	Miscellaneous	1,528,649
		25,018,094
		[illegible]

ATTORNEY GENERAL - Statement of Expenditures

For Year-End March 31, 1988 (Unaudited)

Departmental Support Services	$ 6,453,400
Court Services	52,447,656
Legal Services	30,470,543
Support for Legal Aid	15,337,164
Protection and Administration of Property Rights	19,445,143
Fatality Inquiries	3,416,561
Crimes Compensation	1,181,266
Public Utilities Regulation	2,690,345
Gaming Control and Licensing	346,573
Total Expenditure	**$ 131,788,651**